



State of Wisconsin  
**Department of Health and Family Services**

---

Jim Doyle, Governor  
Helene Nelson, Secretary

October 11, 2005

Contact: Stephanie Marquis, Communications Director, 608-266-1683

**Brown, Fond du Lac, LaCrosse, Milwaukee, Richland and Wood Counties  
Awarded Grant to Serve Children with Disabilities**

The Department of Health and Family Services announced today that Brown, Fond du Lac, LaCrosse, Milwaukee, Richland and Wood counties have been awarded a combined total of \$360,000 over a two-year period to implement programs that help families keep their children with disabilities at home while still having access to the services they need.

“The Department is committed to giving families that have children with disabilities the flexibility they want for the services they need,” said Helene Nelson, Secretary of Health and Family Services. “I look forward to seeing the positive impact these programs will have on the families and children.”

Counties will use the awards to improve long-term support services such as respite care, home and vehicle modifications, supportive home care, counseling and therapeutic services for children who have developmental delays and disabilities, physical disabilities, and mental health needs.

Funds will also be used to:

- Coordinate outreach to families so they are knowledgeable about services that can be offered to children with significant disabilities and their families.
- Coordinate between local partners to reduce duplication of efforts.
- Streamline county government agencies for long-term support services
- Develop and facilitate a Parent Advisory Board with a majority representation of parents of children with disabilities that will provide input to the County and the Department on long-term support programs for children with disabilities.
- Implement a web-based program that helps families accurately determine eligibility for programs.

“We want all Wisconsin children to be happy, healthy, and ready for success. We are pleased to work with these counties to give families with children with disabilities the tools they need to be strong,” added Nelson.

The counties granted this award were selected through a competitive Request for Proposal process; 13 counties originally applied for this award, and six were selected.

- END -